

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-5, 16, 19-24 and 27 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. The amendments introduce no new matter. Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in that claim. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116(b)(1) since the amendments accept the indication of allowability of enumerated claims and cancel non-allowed subject matter. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 5 states that claim 16 is allowed. The Office Action, in paragraph 4, indicates that claims 2-5 recite allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claim 16, and for the indication of allowability of claims 2-5. Amendment of claim 1 is undertaken in view of this indication of allowability. Specifically, claim 1 is amended to include the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 2 rendering claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom allowable.

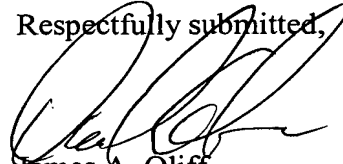
The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 19-24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,462,735 to Naito. The amendment of claim 1 with the inclusion of the indicated allowable subject matter of claim 2 renders this rejection moot as to claim 1 and the claims depending from claim 1, claims 19-24 and 27.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 19-24

and 27, in addition to the allowance of claim 16 and the indicated allowability of claims 3-5, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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